

Level 4  
Box 4 -  
Brookhaven  
Sonaraw

John

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

Some time ago, the Service established a Core Working Group (CWG) to guide our collective efforts to recover this rare animal. Membership on the CWG is composed of representatives from Arizona Game and Fish Department, Bureau of Land Management, Luke Air Force, National Park Service, Tohono O’Odam Indian Tribe, the Republic of Mexico, and the Service. The CWG continues to seek alternatives available to enhance survival and move forward with the recovery of the Sonoran Pronghorn.

Translocation has been discussed by the CWG for investigation **after** there is more understanding of factors that limit population numbers and define habitat needs of the pronghorn. The recent discovery of the close relationship between Sonoran pronghorn and succulent chain-fruit cholla implies an important tie between primary historic range and plant forage species the pronghorn depend on.

A range wide aerial survey of the subspecies is planned for completion during December 1996. Results of the survey will help guide immediate and future actions to recover this animal. If relocation is a viable option, the Gila and other areas will be considered and the best alternative selected.

I am sure Secretary Babbitt joins me in thanking you for your continuing efforts to recover the Sonoran pronghorn. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

12/ James A. Young

Acting Regional Director

Mr. William Howard O'Brien

2

bc: Secretary, DOI, Washington, D.C. (OES - 3 copies) ✓  
Director, FWS, Washington, D.C. (AES/TE) (CCU) ✓  
Refuge Manager, Cabeza Prieta NWR, Ajo, AZ ✓

blk:GDivine:11/25/96-DRAFT

blk:11/25-Yellow

blk-12/6-Final (GD)

blk:GDivine:11/25/96:"Nov\George\O'Brien.ltr"

*for CCU 12-6*

*Mailed 12-9 - B. O'Brien*



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
TASKING PROFILE

Date Printed: 10/22/96

ACCN #: 118055

Open/Closed Status: O

Fiscal Year: 97

Received Date -----	Document Date -----	Due Date -----	Action Office -----	Action Required -----
10/22/96	10/08/96	11/22/96	FWS	DR

Addressee: Secretary Babbitt

From: O'Brien, Wm. Howard

International Sonoran Antelope Foundation  
Phoenix,, AZ

Subject Text: Request for FWS to move a herd of endangered Sonoran  
antelopes to habitat north of the Gila River

Recommended Surnames:

Copies To: ES:PL

Cross-Reference:

Special Interest:

Special Interest Id:

SRO ---	Analyst -----	ES Phone -----	Source -----
RLBURCH	RBURCH	208-3569	ENV



## THE INTERNATIONAL SONORAN ANTELOPE FOUNDATION

October 8, 1996

3104 EAST CAMELBACK  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85016  
TEL-FAX (602) 951-1152

**TRUSTEES**

WM. HOWARD O'BRIEN - ARIZONA, USA  
DIEGO REDO - SONORA, MEXICO  
ROBERT JOHNSON - NEW YORK, USA

Mr. Bruce Babbitt  
Secretary of the Interior  
Department of the Interior  
1840 "C" Street  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Bruce:

The enclosed article, waiving Environmental Rules along the Arizona/Mexico border for the U.S. Border Patrol, could seriously affect the endangered Sonoran Antelope's existence.

For years, we have sought the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's permission to move a small herd of these pronghorn to their historic habitat North of the Gila River. The Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") biologists say the biomass of the Eagletail Range is twice that of the Gunny Range. The Arizona Game and Fish, and Luke Air Force Base would support the effort. BLM won't fight it.

Bruce, the Arizona Game and Fish think that the antelope herd dropped by a third last year because of the drought. The herd numbers have not changed measurably since the Sonoran Antelope was declared endangered more than fourteen years ago.

Please, as an Arizona native, tell the Fish and Wildlife to make a deal with the Arizona Game and Fish, and allow the move of the Sonoran Antelope to their historic habitat North of the Gila River where they can better breed and multiply.

The present system of recovering the Sonoran Antelope from the endangered list simply is not working.

Let me know what they say. In the interest of helping these desert antelope, my Eagletail Range is still available.

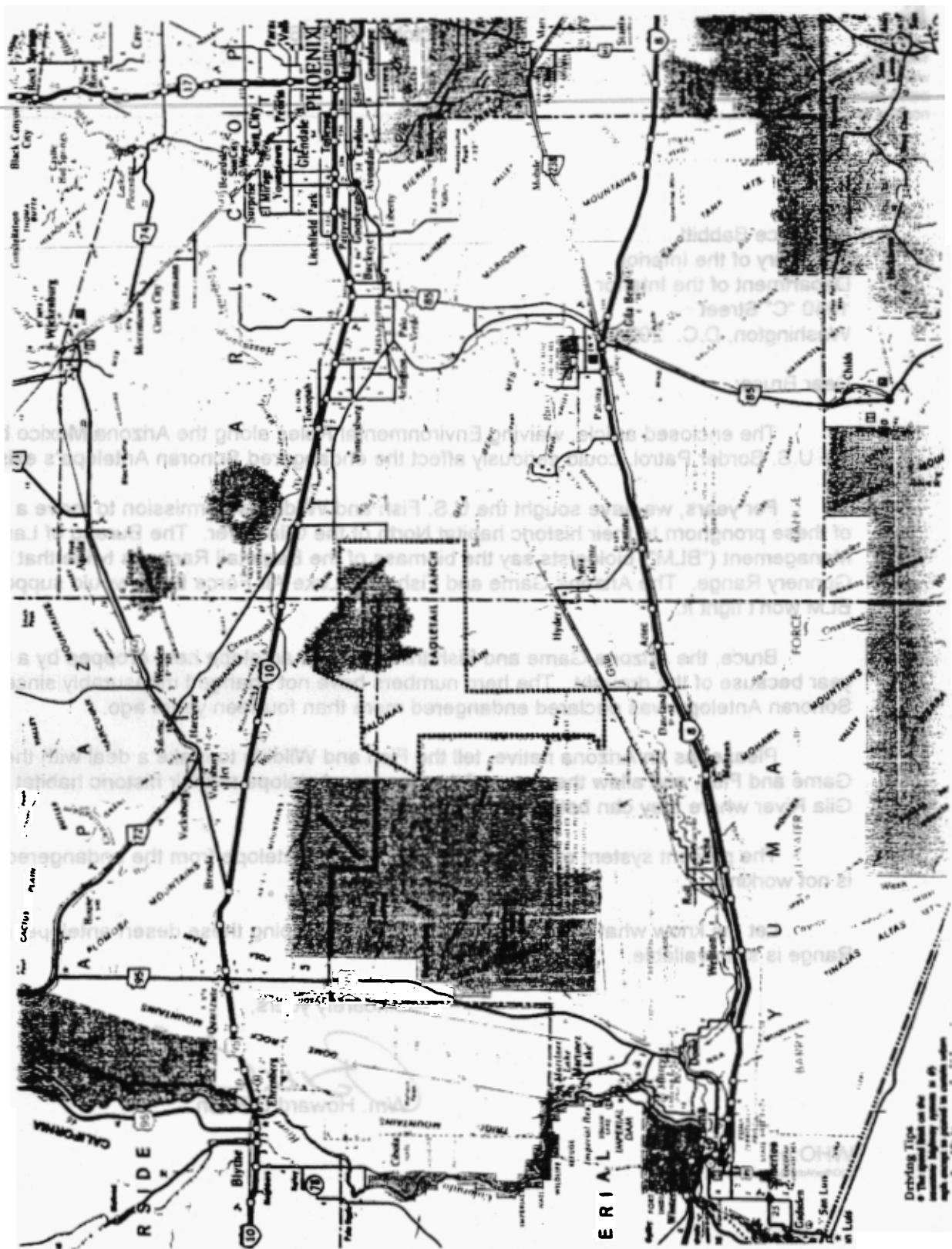
Sincerely yours,



Wm. Howard O'Brien

WHO:ps

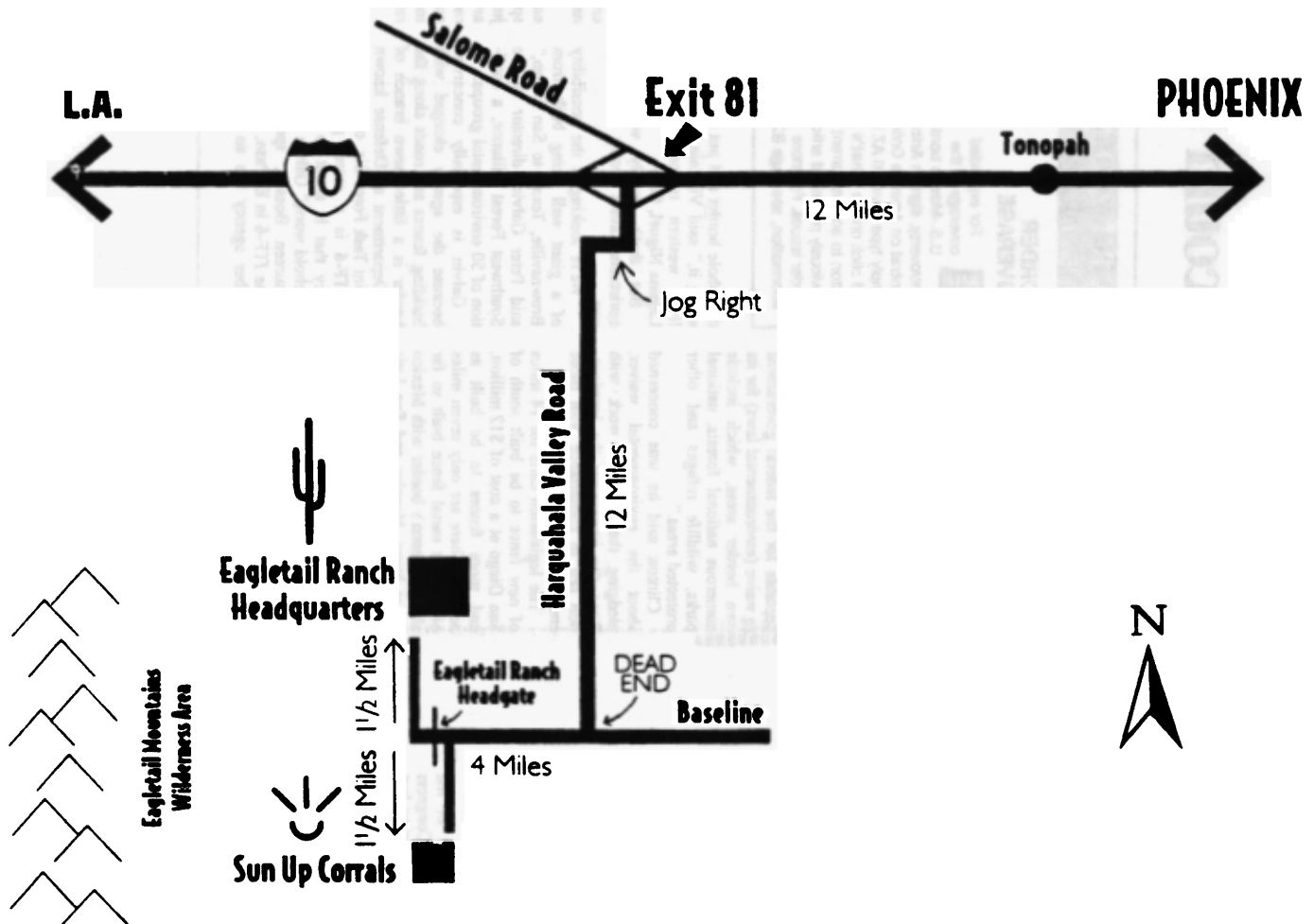
C:\Office\Antelope\Babbitt.Ltr





## EAGLETAIL RANCH

BILL O'BRIEN  
PHONE: (602) 951-1152  
MOBILE: (602) 370-1661  
RANCH: (602) 370-1661  
FAX: (602) 951-0301



Eagletail Ranch is easy to reach from all parts of the southwest. It is located in Maricopa County a 90-minute drive west of Phoenix.

**FROM PHOENIX:** Drive west on I-10 freeway past Tonopah to **Exit 81** (Harquahala Valley Road). Turn south at exit to Harquahala Valley Road 12 miles to dead end (Baseline Road), then west on Baseline 4 miles to Eagletail Ranch Headgate.

**FROM LOS ANGELES:** From Interstate 10, turn right on Harquahala Valley Road (**Exit 81**), south to Baseline, then west to Eagletail Ranch Headgate.

THIS MAP IS FOR: COWBOYS, CATTLE TRUCKS, HIKERS, HORSEMEN, FALCONERS, HUNTERS, FLYERS, BIRD WATCHERS AND FRIENDS. HAY TRUCKS, FIRE DEPARTMENT, UNITED PARCEL SERVICE, GRAMMAR & HIGH SCHOOL BUSES, U.S. MAIL CARRIERS, MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF

# Border wall could block wildlife

BORDER, from page A1

Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. "We're afraid they are eventually going to block off some of the most important wildlife corridors from Mexico, and that will have a negative effect on wildlife in both countries," said Dave Hogan, desert-rivers coordinator for the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity in Tucson.

In a letter to House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., protesting the exemption, Attorney General Janet Reno and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt said, "It would be unacceptable for the federal government to waive (environmental laws) for its brown border areas, which include numerous national forests, national parks, wildlife refuges and other protected areas."

Clinton said he was concerned about the environmental waiver, pledging that he will work with Reno to implement the immigration law in compliance with those environmental laws.

The legislation calls for 14 miles of new fence to be built south of San Diego at a cost of \$12 million, and more fences to be built as needed. There are only seven miles of 10-foot metal fence built so far along Arizona's border with Mexico at Naco, Nogales and San Luis but Border Patrol spokesman Rob Daniels said, "It's only the beginning."

Immigration and Naturalization Service officials downplayed the significance of the waiver. "I hope people don't have the impression that we're going to pave

## ARIZONA

### BORDER COVERAGE

For expanded coverage of the U.S.-Mexico border controversy, sign on Arizona Central on America Online. Simply type keyword **AZ News** and click on the **What's Hot** button to access current and previously published articles on border issues. For more information, see Page B2.

the whole border and put up a fence along it," said Virginia Kice of the INS' western regional office in Laguna Niguel, Calif.

But that's exactly what some environmentalists worry will happen.

"We're looking at the possibility of a giant wall being built from Brownsville, Texas, to San Diego," said Peter Galvin, director of the Southwest Forest Alliance, a coalition of 50 environmental groups.

Galvin is especially concerned because the agency charged with building fences and roads along the border is a little-known branch of the Department of Defense known as Joint Task Force-Six, or JTF-6. "JTF-6 is a secret government agency that is about to become a household word," Galvin said.

Maureen Bosack, spokeswoman for the JTF-6 in El Paso, maintained that her agency has an exemplary

environmental record.

But environmentalists say JTF-6 already has shown its willingness to ignore laws and the concerns of other agencies charged with protecting wildlife.

For example, the U.S. Forest Service criticized JTF-6 last year for building unauthorized heliports and roads.

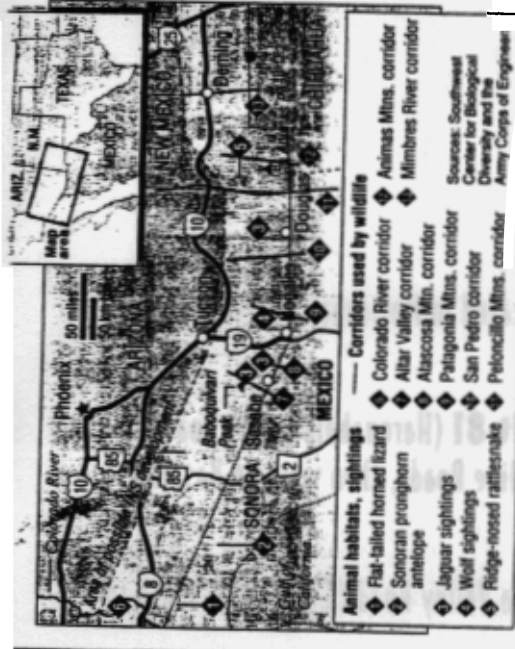
And the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, commenting on a report prepared two years ago about future JTF-6 actions, said the agency plan "does not clearly indicate a commitment by JTF-6 to compensate habitat losses."

According to the Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the Army, JTF-6 actions through 1994 resulted in the "clearing" of 2,500 acres of wildlife habitat.

JTF-6 actions also have harmed archaeological sites, and the Army report anticipated that "cumulative impacts" could result from "increased traffic or future maintenance activities."

The report lists 107 federally endangered, threatened or candidate species within the border region, just in Arizona. And it lists seven areas designated as critical habitats, meaning they are essential for the continued survival of some species, including five kinds of fish, a rare rattlesnake and the whooping crane.

It also lists several "sensitive habitats" in Arizona's border region, including those for 28 rare species, 13 wilderness study areas, six designated and eight proposed research natural areas, and 37 proposed areas of "critical environmental concern."



Staff artist

## Environment rules waived along border

Patrol can build in 50-mile-wide area

By Steve Yozwiak  
Staff writer

The U.S. Border Patrol has been given a green light to build just about anything it wants in a 50-mile-wide corridor stretching from San Diego through Texas without regard to the fragile border environment.

The regulation, tucked away inside a 3,000-page spending bill passed last week by Congress, has riled environmentalists who fear the Border Patrol will pave over or fence out everything from antelope to fairy shrimp.

As many as 100 species could be harmed in Arizona alone, according to a federal report on potential

Border Patrol activities. They include jaguars, wolves, ocelots and Sonoran pronghorn antelope that could be blocked from their seasonal mating and feeding grounds by new fences or roads.

The new rule was part of the spending bill passed by Congress and signed by President Clinton last week. It allows the Border Patrol to build without following the Endangered Species Act or the National Environmental Policy Act.

The exemption covers 40 million acres in a 2,000-mile corridor along the U.S.-Mexican border 50 miles deep running through California,

— See B6B1E, page A6